

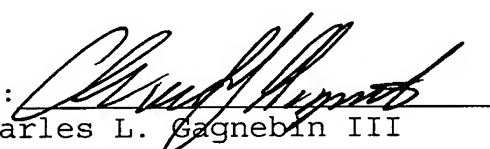
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3, 6-9, 12, 17, and 20-22 have been amended; new claims 23-26 have been added; and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13-16, 18, and 19 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience:

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the protein containing the 7 Cys-knot region of the TGF- $\beta$  superfamily protects against neurodegenerative events.
6. The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig. 7A or the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig. 8A or nucleotides 40 to 333 of the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig. 8A or mutants thereof leading to the expression of functionally active polypeptides.
7. The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, wherein the protein ~~eneoded~~ encoded by the nucleic acid comprises at least the primary amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 7B or the primary amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 8B or amino acid residues 14 to 111 of the sequence shown in Fig. 8B as well as homologs thereof having conservative amino acid substitutions.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims~~  
1-~~to~~7, wherein the mammal is a human.
9. The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims~~  
1-~~to~~8, wherein the neurodegenerative disorders are selected  
from the group of acute and/or chronic neurological and  
psychological disorders.
12. The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims~~  
1-~~to~~11, further comprising one or more agents having  
neurotrophic activity or ~~functionally~~functionally active  
derivatives or parts thereof.
17. The diagnostic kit according to claim 15-~~or~~16, wherein the  
protein containing the 7 Cys-knot region of the TGF- $\beta$   
superfamily protects against neurodegenerative events.
20. The diagnostic kit according to ~~any one of claims~~ 15-~~to~~19,  
wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least the nucleotide  
sequence shown in Fig. 7A or the nucleotide sequence shown in  
Fig. 8A or nucleotides 40 to 333 of the nucleotide sequence  
shown in Fig. 8A or mutants thereof leading to the expression  
of functionally active polypeptides.

21. The diagnostic kit according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 20~~,  
wherein the protein ~~eneended~~ encoded by the nucleic acid  
comprises at least the primary amino acid sequence shown in  
Fig. 7B or the primary amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 8B  
or amino acid residues 14 to 111 of the sequence shown in  
Fig. 8B as well as homologs thereof having conservative amino  
acid substitutions.

22. The diagnostic kit according to ~~any one of claims 19 to 21~~,  
wherein the mammal is a human.